



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Phil Steele, or Phil.Steele@noaa.gov
727/570-5305, FAX 727/570-5583
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 2, 2004
NR04-032

DEEP-WATER GROUPER COMMERCIAL FISHERY IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS WILL CLOSE AT 12:01 A.M., JULY, 15, 2004

NOAA Fisheries announces that the commercial fishery for deep-water grouper (misty, snowy, yellowedge, Warsaw grouper, and speckled hind) in Gulf of Mexico federal waters will close at 12:01 a.m., local time, on July 15, 2004, when the 2004 deep-water grouper quota of 1.02 million pounds is projected to be reached. The commercial fishery will remain closed until 12:01 a.m., local time, January 1, 2005. The operator of a vessel with a valid reef fish permit having deep-water grouper aboard must have landed and sold such deep-water grouper prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, July 15, 2004.

NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.